

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 SAM-01

/091 W

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R 250925 MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8896

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ME, JA

SUBJECT: COLLAPSE OF ME PEACE MEDIATION: JAPANESE REACTION

REF: TOKYO 3776

SUMMARY: MEDIA EXPRESS CONCERN OVER FAILURE OF KISSINGER
MISSION IN ME AND REGARD PROSPECTS FOR PEACE THROUGH GENEVA
CONFERENCE AS SERIOUSLY CLOUDED. IN LIMITED SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS
THUS

FAR, ESPECIALLY IN FONOFF, OFFICIALS CONNECT US POLICIES
IN INDOCHINA WITH WEAKENED US POSITION IN ME. SOME OBSERVERS
GO FURTHER, NOTING POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN'S OWN
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. COLLAPSE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ME PEACE MEDIATION GIVEN
BANNER HEADLINES IN JAPAN, FOLLOWED BY EDITORIALS IN ALL
MAJOR PAPERS WHICH EXPRESS CONCERN THAT MOVEMENT TOWARD
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PEACE HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED AND THAT ANTICIPATED GENEVA CONFERENCE IS UNCERTAIN TO PRODUCE PEACE PACKAGE. AFTER EXTENSIVE RECITATION OF FACTS, CHARACTERISTIC OF MOST EDITORIALS, COMMENTARY VARIES. MORE CONSERVATIVE PAPERS (SANKEI AND TOKYO SHIMBUN), WHICH FREQUENTLY REFLECT FONOFF VIEWS, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SECRETARY'S EFFORTS WOULD BE RENEWED. OTHER PAPERS CALLED FOR SPECIAL US AND USSR MOVES TO AVERT RESORT TO MILITARY MEANS BY ME STATES IN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE ISSUES. COMMON STRAIN WAS ASSESSMENT THAT BREAKDOWN OF US EFFORTS AND MOVE TO GENEVA WOULD ENHANCE SOVIETS' ME POSITION (AT US EXPENSE), AS WELL AS THAT OF PLO. YOMIURI FOCUSED ON US DOMESTIC SITUATION, CALLING FOR ABATEMENT OF US POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. YOMIURI SPECULATED THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION'S PRESTIGE WOULD DECLINE AND SECRETARY KISSINGER MIGHT RESIGN. ECONOMIC PAPERS (NIHON KEIZAI) WORRIED THAT JAPAN'S OIL SUPPLY MIGHT AGAIN BE THREATENED BY FIGHTING OR EMBARGO.

2. PRIVATE AND MORE SERIOUS CONTACTS WE HAVE HAD THUS FAR SHOW SUBSTANTIAL CONCERN OVER BREAKDOWN OF SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN SCATTERED INITIAL REACTION FROM FONOFF AND AMONG THIRD COUNTRY DIPLOMATS. FIRST SE ASIA DIV DIR HANABUSA COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT THE LACK OF RESOLUTION ON PART OF US IN INDOCHINA HAD CLEARLY WEAKENED USG POSITION IN MEDIATING WITH ME PARTIES. AFTER MAKING SAME POINT, ASST VICE FON MIN FOR ADMINISTRATION MOTONO WENT FURTHER AND TOLD EMBOFF THAT CONSERVATIVE FIGURES IN LDP REGARD STRING OF US FOREIGN POLICY SET-BACKS FROM INDOCHINA TO ME AS RELATED AND, MOREOVER, WITH IMPLICATIONS REGARDING WORTH OF FUTURE US COMMITMENTS TO OTHER ALLIES, PARTICULARLY JAPAN.

3. COMMENT: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REACTION IS STILL FRAGMENTARY AND TENTATIVE. GOJ PLACED GREAT HOPES ON SECRETARY'S EFFORTS AND HOPES SOME REASSURING NEW FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE QUEST WITH BACKING OF USG WILL SOON EMERGE. SHOULD SUCH FAIL TO APPEAR, WE EXPECT WORRY QUOTIENT TO RISE VERY PERCEPTIBLY AND COVER RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING DANGERS OF WAR, RENEWED THREAT TO OIL SUPPLIES TO JAPAN, STRENGTHENING OF SOVIET POSITION IN ME WITH COMMENSURATE LOSS OF US INFLUENCE, AND CUMULATIVELY, IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN'S OWN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.
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MENTS.
SHOESMITH

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